

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 SCI-06 IO-13 SCA-01 VO-03 L-03

INR-10 EB-11 RSR-01 RSC-01 /082 W

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R 181814 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6524

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4356

STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON SALINITY PROBLEM  
AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

1. DURING AN OPPORTUNITY I HAD FOR A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AT HIS RESIDENCE, I MENTIONED SALINITY TALKS IN MEXICO LAST WEEK WITH AMBASSADOR BROWNELL. ECHEVERRIA IMMEDIATELY REACTED SAYING THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA HAD BRIEFED HIM ON PROGRESS OF TALKS IN GENERAL TERMS AND THAT RABASA WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT A SETTLEMENT WOULD SOON BE REACHED. I SAID THAT WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SETTLEMENT AND FELT THAT WE HAD MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUCH A SETTLEMENT BOTH IN THE PAPER WHICH SECRETARY ROGERS LEFT WITH ECHEVERRIA LAST MONTH AND IN DOCUMENT WHICH BROWNELL HAD GIVEN TO RABASA DURING LAST WEE K'S TALKS. I MENTIONED THAT DESPITE THESE GESTURES THERE WERE STILL OUTSTANDING POINTS INVOLVING SALINITY DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN IMPERIAL AND MORELOS DAMS, QUESTION OF WHEN FULL SUBSTITUTION OF WELLTON- MOHAWK WATERS WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND QUESTION OF DAMAGE CLAIMS. WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO LATTER, I MENTIONED THAT BROWNELL OF COURSE DESIRED TO OBTAIN A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION SO THAT NO ADDITIONAL MATTERS WOULD BE RAISED AFTER THE SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED. I STRESSED THAT SOLUTION WE HAD ALREADY PROPOSED WOULD COST US NEARLY

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ONE- HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. ECHEVERRIA OBVIOUSLY DID NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC POINTS IN A SETTLEMENT AND MERELY SAID HE WAS SENDING RABASA BACK TO WASHINGTON AND HOPED THAT A FINAL SETTLEMENT WOULD ENSUE. HE SMILED WHEN I SAID IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SUCH A SETTLEMENT BY SEPTEMBER 1 ( DATE OF HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE).

2. ECHEVERRIA THEN SPOKE PHILOSOPHICALLY ABOUT BOTH THE SALINITY PROBLEM AND THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT QUESTION. HE SAID THESE WERE THE TWO REMAINING ISSUES OUTSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE CONSIDERED THE SALINITY PROBLEM SOLUBLE AND INDEED NEARING A SOLUTION BUT HE FEARED THAT IN THE LONG RUN THE IMMIGRANT QUESTION MIGHT PROVE TO BE MORE SERIOUS AND EVEN MORE DIFFICULT OF SOLUTION. HE SAID HE FULLY REALIZED THE ISSUES INVOLVED INCLUDING THE POSITION IN THE U. S. ETC. HE SAID HE REALLY HAD NO IDEAS ON A SOLUTION EXCEPT THE LONG- TERM ONE HE HAS ALREADY OUTLINED OF RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN MEXICO TO DECREASE THE TEMPTATION FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT WE WERE WILLING TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE GOING THROUGH JULY 16 MEETING IN WASHINGTON THOUGH HE KNEW THIS COULD NOT SETTLE THE MATTER.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* STADIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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